

# Your Insured Deposits

**FDIC**

SERIES  
2009



Federal Deposit  
Insurance Corporation

## Important Information About This Brochure

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This brochure describes the rules for FDIC deposit insurance coverage of most account ownership categories used by bank depositors. Its purpose is to help depositors understand the amount of coverage available for their deposit accounts. It is not a legal interpretation of the FDIC's laws and regulations. For additional or more specific information about FDIC insurance coverage, depositors or their financial or legal advisor may consult the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C.1811 et seq.) and the FDIC's regulations relating to insurance coverage described in 12 C.F.R. Part 330.

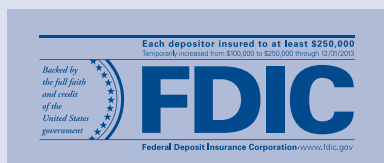
The information in this brochure is based on FDIC laws and regulations in effect at publication. These rules can be amended and, therefore, some of the information in this brochure may become outdated. The online version of this brochure, available on the FDIC's website at **[www.fdic.gov/deposit/deposits](http://www.fdic.gov/deposit/deposits)**, will be updated immediately if rule changes affecting FDIC insurance coverage are made.

Depositors should note that federal law expressly limits the amount of insurance the FDIC can pay to depositors when an insured bank fails, and no representation made by any person or organization can either increase or modify that amount.

This brochure does not provide estate planning advice. Depositors seeking such assistance should contact a financial or legal advisor.

For simplicity, this brochure uses the term "insured bank" to mean any bank or savings association that is insured by the FDIC. To check whether the FDIC insures a specific bank or savings association:

- Call the FDIC toll-free: **1-877-275-3342**
- Use FDIC's "Bank Find" at:  
**[www2.fdic.gov/idasp/main\\_bankfind.asp](http://www2.fdic.gov/idasp/main_bankfind.asp)**,  
or
- Look for the FDIC sign where deposits are received



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## **FDIC Insurance Coverage Basics**

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The FDIC - short for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation - is an independent agency of the United States government. The FDIC protects depositors of insured banks located in the United States against the loss of their deposits if an insured bank fails.

Any person or entity can have FDIC insurance coverage in an insured bank. A person does not have to be a U.S. citizen or resident to have his or her deposits insured by the FDIC.

FDIC insurance is backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government. Since the FDIC began operation in 1934, no depositor has ever lost a penny of FDIC-insured deposits.

### **What does FDIC deposit insurance cover?**

FDIC insurance covers all types of deposits received at an insured bank, including deposits in a checking account, negotiable order of withdrawal (NOW) account, savings account, money market deposit account (MMDA) or time deposit such as a certificate of deposit (CD).

FDIC insurance covers depositors' accounts at each insured bank, dollar-for-dollar, including principal and any accrued interest through the date of the insured bank's closing, up to the insurance limit.

The FDIC does not insure money invested in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, life insurance policies, annuities or municipal securities, even if these investments are purchased at an insured bank.

The FDIC does not insure safe deposit boxes or their contents.

The FDIC does not insure U.S. Treasury bills, bonds or notes, but these investments are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government.

### **How much insurance coverage does the FDIC provide?**

The standard maximum deposit insurance amount is described as the "SMDIA" in FDIC regulations.

The SMDIA is \$250,000 per depositor, per insured bank, through December 31, 2013.

On January 1, 2014, the SMDIA is scheduled to return to \$100,000 per depositor, per insured bank, for all account ownership categories except Certain Retirement Accounts, which will remain at \$250,000 permanently per depositor, per insured bank.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In 2006, the U.S. Congress permanently increased the SMDIA for Certain Retirement Accounts to \$250,000 per depositor, per insured bank.

The FDIC insures deposits that a person holds in one insured bank separately from any deposits that the person owns in another separately chartered insured bank. For instance, if a person has a checking account at Bank A and has a checking account at Bank B, both accounts would be insured separately up to the SMDIA. Funds deposited in separate branches of the same insured bank are not separately insured.

The FDIC provides separate insurance coverage for funds depositors may have in different categories of legal ownership. The FDIC refers to these different categories as “ownership categories.” This means that a bank customer who has multiple deposits may qualify for more than \$250,000 in insurance coverage if the customer’s accounts are deposited in different ownership categories and the requirements for each ownership category are met.

## Ownership Categories

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This section describes the following FDIC ownership categories and the requirements a depositor must meet to qualify for insurance coverage above the SMDIA at one insured bank:

- **Single Accounts**
- **Certain Retirement Accounts**
- **Joint Accounts**
- **Revocable Trust Accounts**
- **Irrevocable Trust Accounts**
- **Employee Benefit Plan Accounts**
- **Corporation/Partnership/  
Unincorporated Association Accounts**
- **Government Accounts**

## Single Accounts

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A single account is a deposit owned by one person. This ownership category includes:

- An account held in one person’s name only, provided the owner has not designated any beneficiary(ies) who are entitled to receive the funds when the account owner dies <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> If an account is owned by one person, and the owner has designated one or more beneficiaries who will receive the deposit when the account owner dies, the account would be insured as a trust account, not as a single account. See the ownership categories for revocable and irrevocable trust accounts.

- An account established for one person by an agent, nominee, guardian, custodian, or conservator, including Uniform Transfers to Minors Act accounts, escrow accounts and brokered deposit accounts
- An account held in the name of a business that is a sole proprietorship (for example, a “Doing Business As” or DBA account)
- An account established for or representing a deceased person’s funds – commonly known as a decedent’s estate account
- Any account that fails to qualify for separate coverage under another ownership category

**The FDIC adds together all single accounts owned by the same person at the same bank and insures the total up to the SMDIA, currently \$250,000.**

If an account title identifies only one owner, but another person has the right to withdraw funds from the account, the FDIC will insure the account as a single account only if the insured bank’s deposit account records indicate that:

- the other signatory is authorized to make withdrawals pursuant to a Power of Attorney, or
- the account is owned solely by one person and the other person is authorized to withdraw deposits only on the owner’s behalf (also known as a convenience account)

**Example: Single Account**

Account Title	Deposit Type	Account Balance
Marci Jones	MMDA	\$ 15,000
Marci Jones	Savings	20,000
Marci Jones	CD	200,000
Marci's Memories (a sole proprietorship)	Checking	25,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>260,000</b>
<b>Amount Insured</b>		<b>250,000</b>
<b>Amount Uninsured</b>		<b>\$ 10,000</b>



**Explanation**

Marci Jones has four single accounts at the same insured bank, including one account in the name of her business, which is a sole proprietorship. The FDIC insures deposits owned by a sole proprietorship as the single account of the business owner. The FDIC combines the four accounts, which equal \$260,000, and insures the total balance up to \$250,000, leaving \$10,000 uninsured.

## Certain Retirement Accounts

A retirement account is insured under the Certain Retirement Accounts ownership category only if the account qualifies as one of the following:

- Individual Retirement Account (IRA) including:
  - o Traditional IRA
  - o Roth IRA
  - o Simplified Employee Pension (SEP) IRA
  - o Savings Incentive Match Plans for Employees (SIMPLE) IRA
- Section 457 deferred compensation plan account, such as an eligible deferred compensation plan provided by state and local governments regardless of whether the plan is self-directed
- Self-directed defined contribution plan account, such as self-directed 401(k) plan, self-directed SIMPLE IRA held in the form of a 401(k) plan, self-directed defined contribution money purchase plan, or self-directed defined contribution profit-sharing plan
- Self-directed Keogh plan account (or H.R.10 plan account) designed for self-employed individuals

**The FDIC adds together all retirement accounts listed above, owned by the same person at the same insured bank, and insures the total amount up to \$250,000.**

The FDIC defines the term “self-directed” to mean that plan participants have the right to direct how the money is invested, including the ability to direct that deposits be placed at an FDIC-insured bank.

The FDIC will consider an account to be self-directed if the participant of the retirement plan has the right to choose a particular bank’s deposit accounts as an investment option. For example:

- If a plan has deposit accounts at a particular insured bank as its default investment option, then the FDIC would deem the plan to be self-directed for insurance coverage purposes because, by inaction, the participant has directed the placement of such deposits
- If a plan consists only of a single employer/employee, and the employer establishes the plan with a single investment option of deposit accounts at a particular insured bank, then the plan would be considered self-directed for insurance coverage purposes

- If a plan's only investment vehicle is the deposit accounts of a particular bank, so that participants have no choice of investments, then the plan would **not** be deemed self-directed for insurance coverage purposes

While some self-directed retirement accounts, like IRAs, permit the owner to name one or more beneficiaries, the FDIC will ignore beneficiary designations when calculating insurance coverage. Therefore, the existence of beneficiaries will not increase insurance coverage available for Certain Retirement Accounts.

<b>Example: Certain Retirement Accounts</b>	
<b>Account Title</b>	<b>Account Balance</b>
Bob Johnson's Roth IRA	\$ 110,000
Bob Johnson's IRA	75,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>185,000</b>
<b>Amount Insured</b>	<b>185,000</b>
<b>Amount Uninsured</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>



### **Explanation**

Bob Johnson has two different types of retirement accounts that qualify as Certain Retirement Accounts at the same insured bank. The FDIC adds together the deposits in both accounts, which equal \$185,000. Since Bob's total in all certain retirement accounts at the same bank is less than \$250,000, his IRA deposits are fully insured.

### **The following types of deposits do not qualify as Certain Retirement Accounts**

- Coverdell Education Savings Accounts (formerly known as Education IRAs), Health Savings Accounts or Medical Savings Accounts, which could be insured either as single accounts or trust accounts depending on how the plans are structured
- Deposit accounts established under section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code (annuity contracts for certain employees of public schools, tax-exempt organizations and ministers), which are insured as employee benefit plan accounts
- Defined-benefit plan deposits (plans for which the benefits are determined by an employee's compensation, years of service and age), which are insured as employee benefit plan accounts

## Joint Accounts

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For insurance coverage purposes, a joint account is a deposit owned by two or more people, with no beneficiaries designated.<sup>3</sup> FDIC insurance covers joint accounts owned in any manner conforming to applicable state law, such as joint tenants with right of survivorship, tenants by the entirety and tenants in common.

To qualify for insurance coverage under this ownership category, all of the following requirements must be met:

1. All co-owners must be people. Legal entities such as corporations, trusts, estates or partnerships are not eligible for joint account coverage.
2. All co-owners must have equal rights to withdraw deposits from the account. For example, if one co-owner can withdraw deposits on his or her signature alone but the other co-owner can withdraw deposits only with the signature of both co-owners, the co-owners would not have equal withdrawal rights.
3. All co-owners must sign the deposit account signature card unless the account is a CD or is established by an agent, nominee, guardian, custodian, executor or conservator.

**If all of these requirements are met, each co-owner's shares of every joint account that he or she owns at the same insured bank are added together with his or her other joint account shares at the same bank, and the total is insured up to the SMDIA, currently \$250,000.**

The FDIC assumes that all co-owners' shares are equal unless the deposit account records state otherwise.

The balance of a joint account can exceed \$250,000 and still be fully insured. For example, if the same two people jointly own both a \$350,000 CD and a \$150,000 savings account at the same insured bank, the two accounts would be added together and insured up to \$500,000, providing up to \$250,000 in insurance coverage for each co-owner. This example assumes that the two co-owners have no other joint accounts at the bank.

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<sup>3</sup> If the co-owners of a jointly held account have designated one or more beneficiaries who will receive the deposit when the co-owners die, the account would be insured as a trust account. See the ownership categories for revocable and irrevocable trust accounts.

There is no relationship requirement for joint account coverage. Any two or more people that co-own funds can qualify for insurance coverage in the joint account ownership category provided the requirements listed above are met.

Insurance coverage of joint accounts is not increased by rearranging the owners' names or by changing the styling of their names. Alternating the use of "or," "and" or "and/or" to separate the names of co-owners in a joint account title also does not affect the amount of insurance coverage provided.

In addition, using different Social Security numbers on multiple accounts held by the same co-owners will not increase insurance coverage.

Example: Joint Account		
Account Title	Deposit Type	Account Balance
Mary and John Smith	MMDA	\$ 230,000
Mary or John Smith	Savings	300,000
Mary or John or Robert Smith	CD	270,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 800,000</b>

Insurance coverage for each owner is calculated as follows:			
Owners	Ownership Share	Amount Insured	Amount Uninsured
Mary	\$ 355,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 105,000
John	355,000	250,000	105,000
Robert	90,000	90,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 800,000</b>	<b>\$ 590,000</b>	<b>\$ 210,000</b>



### Explanation

- Mary's ownership share in all joint accounts equals 1/2 of the MMDA account (\$115,000), 1/2 of the savings account (\$150,000), and 1/3 of the CD (\$90,000), for a total of \$355,000. Since her coverage in the joint account ownership category is limited to \$250,000, \$105,000 is uninsured
- John's ownership share in all joint accounts is the same as Mary's, so \$105,000 of John's deposits is uninsured
- Robert's ownership share in all joint accounts equals 1/3 of the CD, or \$90,000, so his share is fully insured

## Revocable Trust Accounts

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**This section explains FDIC insurance coverage for revocable trust accounts, and is not intended as estate planning advice or guidance. Depositors should contact a legal or financial advisor for assistance with estate planning.**

A revocable trust account is a deposit account owned by one or more people that identifies one or more beneficiaries who will receive the deposits upon the death of the owner(s). A revocable trust can be revoked, terminated or changed at any time, at the discretion of the owner(s). In this section, the term “owner” means the grantor, settlor, or trustor of the revocable trust.

When calculating insurance coverage, trustees, co-trustees and successor trustees are not relevant. They are administrators and have no impact on insurance coverage unless they also are the owners or beneficiaries of the trust.

This ownership category includes both informal and formal revocable trusts:

- Informal revocable trusts – often called payable on death, totten trust, in trust for or as trustee for accounts – are created when the account owner signs an agreement – usually part of the bank’s signature card – directing the bank to transfer the funds in the account to one or more named beneficiaries upon the owner’s death
- Formal revocable trusts – known as living or family trusts – are written trusts created for estate planning purposes. The owner controls the deposits and other assets in the trust during his or her lifetime. The agreement establishes that the deposits are to be paid to one or more identified beneficiaries upon the owner’s death. The trust generally becomes irrevocable upon the owner’s death

## Coverage and Requirements for Revocable Trust Accounts

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**In general, the owner of a revocable trust account is insured up to the SMDIA, currently \$250,000, for each different beneficiary, if all of the following requirements are met:**

1. The account title at the bank must indicate that the account is held pursuant to a trust relationship. This rule can be met by using the terms payable on death (or POD), in trust for (or ITF), as trustee for (or ATF), living trust, family trust, or any similar language, including simply having the word “trust” in the account title. Account title includes information contained in the bank’s electronic deposit account records.

2. The beneficiaries must be named in either the deposit account records of the bank (for informal revocable trusts) or the beneficiaries must be identified in the formal revocable trust document. For a formal trust agreement, it is acceptable for the trust to use language such as “my issue” or other commonly used legal terms to describe the designated beneficiaries, provided the specific names and number of eligible beneficiaries can be determined.
3. To qualify as an eligible beneficiary, the beneficiary must be a living person, a charity or a non-profit organization. If a charity or non-profit organization is named as beneficiary, it must qualify as such under Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations.

An account must meet all of the above requirements to be insured under the revocable trust ownership category. Typically, if any of the above requirements are not met, the entire amount in the account, or the portion of the account that does not qualify, is added to the owner’s other single accounts, if any, at the same bank and insured up to the SMDIA. If the trust has multiple co-owners, the amount that does not qualify would be added to each owner’s share as his or her single account.

An owner who identifies a beneficiary as having a life estate interest in a formal revocable trust is entitled to insurance coverage up to the SMDIA for that beneficiary. A life estate beneficiary is a beneficiary who has the right to receive income from the trust or to use trust deposits during the beneficiary’s lifetime, where other beneficiaries receive the remaining trust deposits after the life estate beneficiary dies.

For example: A husband is the sole owner of a living trust that gives his wife a life estate interest in the trust deposits, with the remainder going to their two children upon his wife’s death. Maximum insurance coverage for this account is calculated as follows: \$250,000 times three different beneficiaries equals \$750,000.

Insurance coverage for revocable trust accounts is calculated differently depending on the number of beneficiaries named by the owner, the beneficiaries’ interests and the amount of the deposit.

Two calculation methods are used to determine insurance coverage of revocable trust accounts: one method is used only when a revocable trust owner has five or fewer different beneficiaries; the other method is used only when an owner has six or more different beneficiaries.

If a trust has more than one owner, each owner’s insurance coverage is calculated separately.

**Revocable Trust Insurance Coverage – Five or Fewer Different Beneficiaries**

**When a revocable trust owner names five or fewer beneficiaries, the owner’s trust deposits are insured up to the SMDIA, currently \$250,000, for each different beneficiary.** This rule applies to the combined interests of all beneficiaries the owner has named in all formal and informal revocable trust accounts at the same bank. Therefore, when there are five or fewer beneficiaries, the calculation of the maximum deposit insurance coverage for the trust owner is determined by multiplying \$250,000 times the number of different beneficiaries, regardless of the dollar amount or percentage allotted to each different beneficiary.

Maximum insurance coverage for a trust owner when there are five or fewer different beneficiaries	
Number of Different Beneficiaries	Maximum Insurance Coverage
1 Beneficiary	\$ 250,000
2 Beneficiaries	\$ 500,000
3 Beneficiaries	\$ 750,000
4 Beneficiaries	\$ 1,000,000
5 Beneficiaries	\$ 1,250,000

Example: POD accounts for one owner when there are five or fewer different beneficiaries					
Account No.	Title	Owner	Beneficiaries	Deposit Type	Account Balance
1	John Jones POD	John	Jack, Janet	MMDA	\$ 10,000
2	John Jones POD	John	Jack, Janet	Savings	20,000
3	John Jones POD	John	Jack, Janet	CD	470,000
Total					500,000
Amount Insured					500,000
Amount Uninsured					\$ 0



**Explanation**

John Jones has three revocable trust accounts at the same insured bank. Maximum insurance coverage for these accounts is calculated as \$250,000 times two beneficiaries, which equals \$500,000. John Jones is fully insured.

**Example: Multiple revocable trust accounts with five or fewer different beneficiaries**

Account Number	Account Title	Account Balance
1	Paul and Lisa Li Living Trust, John and Sharon Li (Beneficiaries)	\$ 700,000
2	Lisa Li POD, Sharon and Bill Li (Beneficiaries)	\$ 450,000

Owners	Beneficiaries	Owner's Share	Amount Insured	Amount Uninsured
Paul	John, Sharon	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 0
Lisa	John, Sharon, Bill	800,000	750,000	50,000
Total		\$1,150,000	\$1,100,000	\$ 50,000



**Explanation**

When a revocable trust owner has five or fewer beneficiaries, the owner’s share of each trust account is added together and the owner receives up to \$250,000 in insurance coverage for each different beneficiary.

- Paul's share: \$350,000 (50% of Account 1)
- Lisa’s share: \$800,000 (50% of Account 1 and 100% of Account 2)

Because Paul named two different beneficiaries, his maximum insurance coverage is \$500,000 (\$250,000 times two beneficiaries). Since his share of account 1, \$350,000, is less than \$500,000, he is fully insured.

Because Lisa has named three different beneficiaries between accounts 1 and 2, her maximum insurance coverage is \$750,000 (\$250,000 times three beneficiaries). Since her share of both accounts, \$800,000, exceeds \$750,000, she is uninsured for \$50,000.

**Revocable Trust Insurance Coverage – Six or More Different Beneficiaries**

**Equal Beneficial Interests**

When a revocable trust owner names six or more different beneficiaries, and all the beneficiaries have an equal interest in the trust (i.e., every beneficiary receives the exact same amount), the insurance calculation is the same as for revocable trusts that name five or fewer beneficiaries. The trust owner receives insurance coverage up to \$250,000 for each different beneficiary. As shown below, with one owner and six beneficiaries, where all the beneficiaries have an equal beneficial interest, the owner’s maximum insurance coverage is up to \$1,500,000.

**Maximum insurance coverage for each revocable trust owner when there are six or more different beneficiaries with equal beneficial interests**

Number of Different Beneficiaries	Maximum Insurance Coverage
6 Beneficiaries with equal interests	\$ 1,500,000
7 Beneficiaries with equal interests	\$ 1,750,000
8 Beneficiaries with equal interests	\$ 2,000,000
9 Beneficiaries with equal interests	\$ 2,250,000
10+ Beneficiaries with equal interests	add up to \$250,000 for each additional different beneficiary

**Unequal Beneficial Interests**

When a revocable trust owner designates six or more beneficiaries and the beneficiaries do not have equal beneficial interests (i.e., they receive different amounts), the owner’s revocable trust deposits are insured for the greater of either: (1) the sum of each beneficiary’s actual interest in the revocable trust deposits up to \$250,000 for each different beneficiary, or (2) \$1,250,000.

Determining insurance coverage can be complex when a revocable trust has six or more different beneficiaries whose interests are unequal. In such cases, the FDIC recommends that depositors or their financial or legal advisors contact the FDIC for assistance.

**Irrevocable Trust Accounts**

Irrevocable trust accounts are deposit accounts held in connection with a trust established by statute or a written trust agreement in which the owner (also referred to as a grantor, settlor or trustor) contributes deposits or other property to the trust and gives up all power to cancel or change the trust. An irrevocable trust also may come into existence upon the death of an owner of a revocable trust.

A revocable trust account that becomes an irrevocable trust account due to the death of the trust owner may continue to be insured under the rules for revocable trusts. Therefore, in such cases, the rules in the revocable trust section, not this section, may be used to determine coverage.

**The interests of a beneficiary in all deposit accounts under an irrevocable trust established by the same settlor and held at the same insured bank are added together and insured up to the SMDIA, currently \$250,000, only if all of the following requirements are met:**

- The trust must be valid under state law
- The insured bank's deposit account records must disclose the existence of the trust relationship
- The beneficiaries and their interests in the trust must be identifiable from the bank's deposit account records or from the trustee's records
- The amount of each beneficiary's interest must not be contingent as defined by FDIC regulations

If the owner retains an interest in the trust, then the amount of the owner's retained interest would be added to the owner's other single accounts, if any, at the same insured bank and the total insured up to the SMDIA.

### Important!

Since irrevocable trusts usually contain conditions that affect the interests of the beneficiaries or provide a trustee or a beneficiary with the authority to invade the principal, insurance coverage for an irrevocable trust account usually is limited to the SMDIA.

An owner or trustee of an irrevocable trust account who is unsure of the provisions of the trust should consult a legal or financial advisor.

## Employee Benefit Plan Accounts

An employee benefit plan account is a deposit of a pension plan, profit-sharing plan, defined benefit plan or other employee benefit plan that is not self-directed.

**Employee benefit plan deposits that qualify for "pass-through coverage" are insured up to the SMDIA, currently \$250,000, for each participant's non-contingent interest in the plan.** This coverage is called pass-through insurance because the insurance coverage passes through the plan to each participant's interest or share.

Because plan participants frequently have different interests in the plan, insurance coverage **cannot** be determined simply by multiplying the number of participants by the SMDIA.

To determine the maximum amount a plan can have on deposit in a single bank and remain fully insured, first identify the participant who has the largest share of the plan assets, and calculate the participant's share as a percentage of overall plan assets. Then, divide the SMDIA by that percentage to arrive at the maximum amount that a plan can have on deposit at one bank.

For example: If a plan has 20 participants, but one participant has an 80% share of the plan assets, the most that the plan could have on deposit in one bank and remain fully insured is \$312,500. This amount is calculated as follows: \$250,000 divided by 80% or 0.80 = \$312,500.

Example: Employee benefit plan that qualifies for pass-through coverage				
The Happy Pet Vet Clinic has a profit-sharing plan for its employees				
Account Title				Balance
Happy Pet Vet Clinic Benefit Plan				\$700,000
Plan Participants	Plan Share	Share of Deposit	Amount Insured	Amount Uninsured
Dr. Todd	35%	\$ 245,00	\$ 245,000	\$ 0
Dr. Jones	30%	210,00	210,000	0
Tech Evans	20%	140,00	140,000	0
Tech Barnes	15%	105,00	105,000	0
Plan Total	100%	\$ 700,00	\$ 700,000	\$ 0



Explanation

This employee benefit plan’s \$700,000 deposit is fully insured. Because Dr. Todd’s share of the \$700,000 deposit (35% of \$700,000 = \$245,000) is less than the SMDIA, and all of the other participants’ shares of the deposit also are less than the SMDIA, the entire deposit is insured.

To determine the maximum amount this employee benefit plan can deposit at one bank and ensure all of the funds are fully covered, divide the SMDIA by the percentage share of the plan participant with the largest interest in the plan. In this example, the maximum fully insured balance for this plan is \$714,285. This amount is calculated as follows: \$250,000 divided by 35% or 0.35 = \$714,285.

Plan participants who want to know more about how an employee benefit plan’s deposits are insured should consult with the plan administrator.



Important!

Employee benefit plan deposits that do not qualify for pass-through coverage, such as health and welfare plans, are insured up to \$250,000 per bank. Health and welfare plans usually do not qualify for pass-through coverage because they routinely involve contingencies (such as getting sick in order to receive benefits).

## Corporation/Partnership/ Unincorporated Association Accounts

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Deposits owned by corporations, partnerships, and unincorporated associations, including for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, are insured under the same ownership category. Such deposits are insured separately from the personal deposits of the organization's owners, stockholders, partners or members.

To qualify for insurance coverage under this ownership category, a corporation, partnership or unincorporated association must be engaged in an "independent activity," meaning that the entity is operated primarily for some purpose other than to increase deposit insurance coverage.

**All deposits owned by a corporation, partnership, or unincorporated association at the same bank are combined and insured up to the SMDIA, currently \$250,000.**

Accounts owned by the same corporation, partnership, or unincorporated association but designated for different purposes are not separately insured.

For example: If a corporation has both an operating account and a reserve account at the same bank, the FDIC would add both accounts together and insure the funds up to the SMDIA. Similarly, if a corporation has divisions or units that are not separately incorporated, the FDIC would combine the deposit accounts of those divisions or units with any other deposit accounts of the corporation at the bank and the total would be insured up to \$250,000.

The number of partners, members, or account signatories established by a corporation, partnership, or unincorporated association does **not** affect insurance coverage.

For example: The FDIC insures deposits owned by a homeowners' association at one insured bank up to \$250,000 in total, not \$250,000 for each member of the association.

Unincorporated associations typically insured under this category include churches and other religious organizations, community and civic organizations and social clubs.

### Important!

Accounts held in the name of a sole proprietorship are not insured in this ownership category. Rather, they are insured as the single account deposits of the owner, added to the owner's other single accounts, if any, at the same bank and the total insured up to the SMDIA.

## Government Accounts

Government accounts are also known as public unit accounts. This category includes deposit accounts of:

- The United States, including federal agencies
- Any state, county, municipality (or a political subdivision of any state, county, or municipality), the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and other government possessions and territories
- An Indian tribe

Insurance coverage of a public unit account is unique in that the insurance coverage extends to the official custodian of the deposits belonging to the public unit rather than to the public unit.

**Each official custodian of time and savings deposits (including interest-bearing NOW accounts) of a public unit is insured up to the SMDIA, currently \$250,000.**

Additionally, demand deposits in an insured bank located in the same state as the public unit are insured up to the SMDIA, separately from time and savings deposits of the public unit. Thus, the same official custodian may receive up to \$500,000 in insurance coverage – \$250,000 in time and savings deposits and \$250,000 in demand deposits – provided the deposits are held in an insured bank located in the same state as the public unit.

Demand deposits maintained by an official custodian of the United States are insured separately from any time deposits maintained by the same custodian at the same insured bank, regardless of the state in which the insured bank is located.

Public unit deposits maintained in any out-of-state bank – whether time, savings or demand deposits – are limited to a maximum of \$250,000 in insurance coverage per official custodian.

To learn more about deposit insurance coverage for Government Accounts, see FDIC's Fact Sheet – *Deposit Insurance for Accounts Held by Government Depositors* at:

**[www.fdic.gov/deposit/deposits/factsheet.html](http://www.fdic.gov/deposit/deposits/factsheet.html)**

## Questions and Answers

### 1. How can I qualify for more than the SMDIA, currently \$250,000, in FDIC insurance coverage?

The FDIC provides separate insurance coverage for a depositor’s funds at the same insured bank if the funds are held in different ownership categories. To qualify for this expanded coverage, the requirements for insurance coverage in each ownership category must be met.

The example below illustrates how a family of four—a husband and wife with two children—could qualify for up to \$3 million in FDIC coverage at one insured bank. This example assumes that the funds are in qualified deposit products at an insured bank and these are the only accounts that the family has at the bank.

Example: Insurance coverage for a family of four with deposit accounts in multiple ownership categories				
Account Title	Account Ownership Category	Owner	Beneficiary	Maximum Insurable Amount
Husband	Single Account	Husband		\$ 250,000
Wife	Single Account	Wife		250,000
Husband IRA	Certain Retirement Account	Husband		250,000
Wife IRA	Certain Retirement Account	Wife		250,000
Husband & Wife	Joint Account	Husband & Wife		500,000
Husband POD	Revocable Trust Account	Husband	Wife	250,000
Wife POD	Revocable Trust Account	Wife	Husband	250,000
Husband & Wife Living Trust	Revocable Trust Account	Husband & Wife	Child 1 Child 2	1,000,000
<b>Total</b>				<b>3,000,000</b>
<b>Amount Insured</b>				<b>3,000,000</b>
<b>Amount Uninsured</b>				<b>\$ 0</b>



### Explanation

#### Single Account Ownership Category

The FDIC combines all single accounts owned by the same person at the same bank and insures the total up to \$250,000. The Husband’s single account deposits do not exceed \$250,000 so his funds are fully insured. The same facts apply to the Wife’s single account deposits. Both accounts are fully insured.

### **Certain Retirement Account Ownership Category**

The FDIC adds together all certain retirement accounts owned by the same person at the same bank and insures the total up to \$250,000. The Husband and Wife each have an IRA deposit at the bank with a balance of \$250,000. Because each account is within the insurance limit, the funds are fully insured.

### **Joint Account Ownership Category**

Husband and Wife have one joint account at the bank. The FDIC combines each co-owner's shares of all joint accounts at the bank and insures each co-owner's total up to \$250,000. Husband's ownership share in all joint accounts at the bank equals  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the joint account or \$250,000, so his share is fully insured. Wife's ownership share in all joint accounts at the bank equals  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the joint account or \$250,000, so her share is fully insured.

### **Revocable Trust Account Ownership Category**

To determine insurance coverage of revocable trust accounts, the FDIC first determines the amount of the trust's deposits belonging to each owner. In this example:

- Husband's share = \$750,000 (100% of the Husband's POD account naming Wife as beneficiary and 50% of the Husband and Wife Living Trust account identifying Child 1 and Child 2 as beneficiaries)
- Wife's share = \$750,000 (100% of the Wife's POD account naming Husband as beneficiary and 50% of the Husband and Wife Living Trust account identifying Child 1 and Child 2 as beneficiaries)

Second, the FDIC determines the number of beneficiaries for each owner. In this example, each owner has three different beneficiaries (Spouse, Child 1 and Child 2). When a revocable trust owner has five or fewer different beneficiaries, the owner is insured up to \$250,000 for each different beneficiary. Husband's share of the revocable trust deposits is insured up to \$750,000 (\$250,000 times three beneficiaries = \$750,000). Wife's share of the revocable trust deposits is insured up to \$750,000 (\$250,000 times three beneficiaries = \$750,000).

## **Death of an Account Owner or Beneficiary**

### **2. What happens to insurance coverage after an account owner dies?**

The FDIC insures a deceased person's accounts as if the person were still alive for six months after the death of the account holder. During this grace

period, the insurance coverage of the owner's accounts will not change unless the accounts are restructured by those authorized to do so. Also, the FDIC will not apply this grace period if it would result in less coverage.

### **3. How does the death of a beneficiary of an informal revocable trust (e.g., POD account) affect insurance coverage?**

There is no grace period if the beneficiary of a POD account dies. In most cases, insurance coverage for the deposits would be reduced immediately.

For example: A mother deposits \$500,000 in a POD account at an insured bank with her two children named as the beneficiaries in the account records of the bank. While the owner and both beneficiaries are alive, the account is insured up to \$500,000 (\$250,000 times two beneficiaries = \$500,000). If one beneficiary dies, insurance coverage for the mother's POD account is immediately reduced to \$250,000 (\$250,000 times one beneficiary = \$250,000).

### **4. How does the death of a beneficiary of a formal revocable trust affect the insurance coverage?**

Like informal revocable trusts, the six-month grace period does not apply to the death of a beneficiary named in a formal revocable trust account. However, the terms of the formal revocable trust may provide for a successor beneficiary or some other redistribution of the trust deposits. Depending on these terms, the insurance coverage may or may not change.

## **Merger of Insured Banks**

### **5. What happens to my insurance coverage if I have deposits at two insured banks that merge?**

When two or more insured banks merge, deposits from the assumed bank are separately insured from deposits at the assuming bank for at least six months after the merger. This grace period gives a depositor the opportunity to restructure his or her accounts, if necessary.

CDs from the assumed bank are separately insured until the earliest maturity date after the end of the six-month grace period. CDs that mature during the six-month period and are renewed for the same term and in the same dollar amount (either with or without accrued interest) continue to be separately insured until the first maturity date after the six-month period. If a CD matures during the six-month grace period and is renewed on any other basis, it would be separately insured only until the end of the six-month grace period.

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## Fiduciary Accounts

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### 6. What are fiduciary accounts?

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Fiduciary accounts are deposit accounts owned by one party but held in a fiduciary capacity by another party. Fiduciary relationships may include, but are not limited to, an agent, nominee, guardian, executor or custodian. Common fiduciary accounts include Uniform Transfers to Minors Act accounts, escrow accounts, Interest On Lawyer Trust Accounts and deposit accounts obtained through a broker.

### 7. What are the FDIC disclosure requirements for fiduciary accounts?

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The fiduciary nature of the account must be disclosed in the bank's deposit account records (e.g., "Jane Doe as Custodian for Susie Doe" or "First Real Estate Title Company, Client Escrow Account"). The name and ownership interest of each owner must be ascertainable from the deposit account records of the insured bank or from records maintained by the agent (or by some person or entity that has agreed to maintain records for the agent).

Special disclosure rules apply to multi-tiered fiduciary relationships. If an agent pools the deposits of several owners into one account and the disclosure rules are satisfied, the deposits of each owner will be insured as that owner's deposits.

### 8. How does the FDIC insure funds deposited by a fiduciary?

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Funds deposited by a fiduciary on behalf of a person or entity (the owner) are insured as the deposits of the owner if the disclosure requirements for fiduciary accounts are met.

### 9. Are funds deposited by a fiduciary insured separately from an owner's other deposit accounts at the same bank?

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Funds deposited by a fiduciary on behalf of a person or entity (the owner) are added to any other deposits the owner holds in the same ownership category at the same bank, and insured up to the applicable limit.

For example: A broker purchases a CD for \$250,000 on a customer's behalf at ABC Bank. The customer already has a checking account in his or her name at ABC Bank for \$15,000. The two accounts are added together and insured up to \$250,000 in the single ownership account category. Since the customer's single ownership deposits total \$265,000, \$15,000 is uninsured.

## **For More Information from the FDIC**

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### **Call toll-free**

1-877-ASK-FDIC (1-877-275-3342)

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550 17th Street, NW  
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